UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/C.5/51/36
29 November 1996

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Fifty-first session
FIFTH COMMITTEE
Agenda items 102 and 116

INTERNATIONAL DRUG CONTROL

PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1996-1997

International action to combat drug abuse and illicit production and trafficking

Programme budget implications of the draft resolution recommended to the General Assembly for adoption by the Third Committee in its report (A/51/611)

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

## A. Requests contained in the draft resolution

1. At its 35th meeting, on 13 November 1996, the Third Committee recommended to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft resolution entitled International Action to Combat Drug Abuse and Illicit Production and Trafficking, as contained in its report (A/51/611). At the time of adoption of the draft resolution, the Third Committee was provided with a statement of programme budget implications (A/C.3/51/L.22).

2. Operative paragraphs 5 to 8 and 10 of section IV of the draft resolution, entitled "Special session of the General Assembly devoted to the combat against the illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and related activities", read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

...

"5. Decides that the special session will be held for three days in June 1998, immediately after all the necessary preparatory work has been done to ensure its success and 10 years after the adoption of the 1988 Convention;

"6. Decides also that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs should act as the preparatory body for the special session of the General Assembly, and that deliberations should be open-ended, allowing for the full participation of all States Members of the United Nations and of specialized agencies and observers in accordance with the established practice;

"7. Invites the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to take appropriate measures to prepare for the special session, as early as possible, including the possibility of establishing working groups;

"8. Takes note with appreciation of initiatives by Member States aimed at providing input to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in its capacity as a preparatory forum for the special session, including the convening of groups of high-level governmental experts;

...

"10. Decides that the preparatory process for the special session of the General Assembly should be funded through the regular budget of the United Nations, bearing in mind the need to keep financial costs to a minimum, and that Governments should be invited to make extrabudgetary contributions to meet those costs."

## B. Activities by which the request would be implemented

3. Activities proposed in the draft resolution are related to programme 28, International drug control, of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, as amended,[1] and to section 14, International drug control, of the programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997.[2] The proposed activities relate to all subprogrammes. No provision has been made under the approved programme budget in relation to the requests quoted above.

4. Should the draft resolution be adopted, the special session of the General Assembly would be held for three days in June 1998, immediately after all the necessary preparatory work has been completed. It is envisaged that there would be four meetings per day, including those of the Plenary and the Main Committee. There would be 80 pages of pre-session, 50 pages of in-session and 24 pages of post-session documentation. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs would act as preparatory body for the special session. For each preparatory meeting, there would be 36 pages of pre-session, 12 pages of in-session and 12 pages of post-session documentation.

5. In 1997, these activities would require 12 work-months of Professional staff at the P-5 level and 6 work-months of a consultant in order to prepare the

necessary documentation for the special session, as well as 12 work-months of General Service staff for administrative support.

6. For the preparation of the substantive materials and reports for the special session of the General Assembly, the holding in 1997 of six expert group meetings in Vienna is foreseen on demand reduction (one meeting), judicial cooperation (two meetings), prevention of action against money laundering (one meeting), alternative development and its role in the eradication of illicit cultivation (two meetings) and one open-ended working group of the Commission on demand reduction.

7. The expert group meeting on demand reduction would be held for five days, with the participation of 20 experts; each of the two meetings on judicial cooperation would be for five days, with the participation of 15 experts; the meeting on prevention of action against money laundering would be held for five days, with the participation of 25 experts; the two meetings on alternative development and its role in the eradication of illicit cultivation would be held for five days, with the participation of 15 experts; and the open-ended working group of the Commission on demand reduction would take place for three days. Consultancy services would be required for the preparatory work for the Commission's open-ended working group (two work-months), and for the expert group meeting on alternative development and its role in the eradication of illicit cultivation (three work-months for the second meeting). Professional staff would be required for the preparation of the activities listed above, corresponding to a total of 14 work-months at the P-4 level.

8. In 1998, two expert group meetings on judicial cooperation and prevention of action against money laundering would take place, in addition to the second open-ended working group on demand reduction.

## C. Modification of the approved programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997

9. In order to reflect the provisions of the draft resolution, the narrative of section 14 of the approved programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997 would be modified as follows:

Subprogramme 1

2. Parliamentary services

(b) Substantive and technical (secretariat) services. Add: Substantive service for holding the preparatory meetings and the special session to be held in 1998;

(c) Ad hoc expert groups. Add: Two expert group meetings on judicial cooperation. Delete: One (out of three) expert group meeting to elaborate and review the commentary on the 1988 Convention.

Subprogramme 2

2. Parliamentary services

(b) Ad hoc expert groups and related preparatory work. Modify: (i) "Ad Hoc expert group meeting on demand reduction and techniques of assessment of levels of drug abuse" to read "One expert group meeting on demand reduction as preparatory work for the special session of the General Assembly". Add: (iii) one open-ended working group of the Commission on demand reduction; and (iv) two expert group meetings on alternative development and its role in the eradication of illicit cultivation (XB).

Subprogramme 3

2. Parliamentary services

(c) Ad hoc expert groups. Add: One expert group meeting on prevention of action against money laundering (XB).

## D. Estimates of resource requirements

10. Total resource requirements in 1997 are estimated at full cost as follows:

| Section 14 | United States dollars | |
|---|---|---|
| General temporary assistance | | |
| P-5 level (12 work-months) | 147 100 | |
| General Service other level (12 work-months) | 64 300 | |
| P-4 level (14 work-months) | 147 600 | 359 000 |
| Consultants (11 months) | | 88 000 |
| Ad hoc expert group meetings (travel and daily subsistence allowances) | | 529 500 |
| Total | | 976 500 |
| Section 26E (Conference-servicing) | | |
| First preparatory meeting, Vienna, two days, | | |
| Pre-, in- and post-session documentation | 74 300 | |
| Interpretation and meeting services | 32 200 | 106 500 |

11. Total resource requirements in 1998 are estimated as follows:

| Section 1 | United States dollars |
|---|---|
| Travel of representatives (least developed countries) - New York | 174 700 |
| Section 14 | |
| Travel of staff (travel, daily subsistence allowances and terminal allowances) | 49 600 |
| Expert group meeting | 272 300 |
| Consultancy | 32 000 |
| Total | 528 600 |
| Section 26E (Conference-servicing) | |
| Second preparatory meeting in Vienna and special session | 307 100 |

## E. Funding of additional requirements

1996-1997 programme budget

12. Total substantive and technical requirements amount to $976,500 in 1997. Out of this amount a total of $686,000 could be absorbed within the existing regular budget resources ($372,100) and extrabudgetary resources ($313,900). The balance amounting to $290,500 represents additional requirements to be met from the contingency fund. Details of absorption of these resource requirements are contained in sections F-H below.

13. The conference-servicing requirements in 1997 pertaining to the meeting of the preparatory body for the special session of the General Assembly amount to $106,500. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs would act as the preparatory body and would meet for two days prior to or following the fortieth session. With regard to the document requirements, it is envisaged that the number of documents for the fortieth session of the Commission would be reduced proportionately to accommodate the documentation necessary for the preparatory work. Therefore, the resources required for the additional two days of meetings would be $32,200 for interpretation and meeting services only.

1998

14. Total substantive and technical servicing requirements amount to $528,600. Extrabudgetary resources will be sought to fund a number of expert group meetings. Activities to be funded from the regular budget would be reported in the context of the proposed programme budget for 1998-1999. With regard to conference-servicing requirements, it is expected that the forty-first session of the Commission would operate in the same fashion as the fortieth session. In addition, it is expected that an approximate amount of $200,600 would be

required for the holding of the special session of the General Assembly in New York in June 1998.

F. Potential for absorption during the 1996-1997 biennium

15. Out of the total requirement for general temporary assistance of $359,000, an amount of $211,900 ($148,600 regular budget and $63,300 extrabudgetary) would be absorbed as follows: (a) 14 work-months at the P-4 level corresponding to $147,600 would be absorbed within existing resources, by deploying staff time (8 work-months) released from cancellation or modification of originally planned expert group meetings, and seeking extrabudgetary resources for the remaining 6 work-months; (b) 12 work-months at the General Service other level, corresponding to $64,300, by redeploying two staff members assigned to other activities on a part-time basis. Total additional resources required under this object of expenditure would thus amount to $147,100 (12 work-months of staff at the P-5 level).

16. Total consultant resources requirements amounting to $88,000 would be fully absorbed as follows: Three work-months ($24,000) pertaining to the consultancy services for the preparation of the report on the expert group meeting on alternative development and its role in the eradication of illicit cultivation would be funded from extrabudgetary resources. The remaining eight work-months ($64,000) would be absorbed within existing resources by postponing a few activities originally scheduled for 1997, such as consultancy work on the assessment and elaboration of recommendations on capillary electrophoreses as a new cost-effective tool in drug analysis; and scaling down other activities requiring consultancy expertise, such as on the formulation of national strategies on drug control.

17. Out of the total resource requirements ($529,500) for the ad hoc expert group meetings, $386,100 would be absorbed within the existing regular budget resources ($159,500) and extrabudgetary resources ($226,600) as follows: (a) the expert group meeting on demand reduction would be implemented using the resources originally foreseen for the expert group meeting on demand reduction and techniques of assessment of levels of drug abuse ($91,100); (b) one expert group meeting on judicial cooperation would be using resources released from the cancellation of one of the three expert group meetings on elaboration and review of the commentary on the 1988 Convention ($68,400); and (c) extrabudgetary resources would be sought for the implementation of three expert group meetings ($226,600), one on prevention of action against money laundering and two on alternative development and its role in the eradication of illicit cultivation. Total additional resources required under this object of expenditure would thus amount to $143,400.

18. With regard to conference-servicing, additional resources of $32,200 would be required in 1997 for interpretation and meetings services. In this connection, it is recalled that in adopting the 1996-1997 programme budget the General Assembly decided that savings of $103.9 million were to be achieved during the biennium. Proposals as to how to achieve these savings have been submitted to the General Assembly through the Fifth Committee by the Secretary-General. Therefore the possibility of absorbing the additional conference-

servicing requirements will be reviewed by the Assembly at its current session when it considers the document on meetings additional to the approved calendar of conferences and meetings for the biennium 1996-1997.

## G. Contingency fund

19. It will be recalled that under the procedure established by the General Assembly in its resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986, a contingency fund is established each biennium to accommodate additional expenditures derived from the legislative mandates not provided for in the approved programme budget. Under the same procedure, if additional expenditures proposed exceed resources available from the contingency fund, these activities can be implemented only through the redeployment of resources available from low-priority areas or the modification of existing activities.

20. Should it not prove possible to meet the cost required from the contingency fund, the activities and outputs to be carried out under section 14 foreseen for the biennium 1996-1997 would have to be further reprogrammed and modified beyond the proposals included in the present statement. With regard to section 26E, Conference services, the fortieth session of the Commission would have to be reduced from eight to six days.

## H. Summary

21. Should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution contained in the report of the Third Committee (A/51/611), additional requirements of $976,500 would arise under section 14, International drug control, in 1997. Of these, $372,100 could be met from redeployment of existing regular budget resources and $313,900 from extrabudgetary resources. The balance of $290,500 would be subject to the procedures governing the contingency fund.

22. Resources required for the implementation of the draft resolution in 1998 would be included in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999.

## Notes

[1] Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/47/6/Rev.1), vol. II.

[2] Ibid., Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/50/6/Rev.1), vol. I.

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